

## INSIDE TODAY

### WORLD NEWS

#### IRAQI VOTE



A young Iraqi girl, who accompanied her family to the polling station, asked for her finger to be inked, even though she was too young to vote, shows her inked finger as she leaves the polling station in Karbala, Iraq, Sunday, March 7, 2010.

*Read more on Page A6*

## SPORTS NEWS

#### BUSCH WHACKED



Kurt Busch reacts after winning the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series' Kobalt Tools 500 auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga., Sunday, March 7, 2010.

*Read more on Page 12*

Today is International Women's Day

**International Women's Day celebrates century in the year 2010**

*Read more on Pages B9, B10 & B11*



This image from video released by IntelCenter Sunday, March 7, 2010, shows Adam Gadahn, featured in a video posted Sunday, coincidentally the day that his arrest by Pakistani intelligence officers in the southern city of Karachi was announced. In the video the 31-year-old American al-Qaida spokesman called for Muslim violence, praising the U.S. Army major charged with killing 13 people in Fort Hood, Texas, as a role model for other Muslims.

*Associated Press*

## Officers: Pakistan arrests American-born al-Qaida

*Read more on Page 7*

## Obama's health care pitch to Dems: Trust me

CHARLES BABINGTON,

Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — In private pitches to Democrats, President Barack Obama says he will persuade Congress to pass his health care overhaul even if it kills him and even if he has to ask deeply distrustful lawmakers to trust him on a promise the White House doesn't have the power to keep.

That, in a sometimes darkly joking way, is what the president is telling Democratic House members as he begins an all-out push to coax Congress into passing his proposals despite voters' misgivings and Republicans' dire warnings.

"He made the case, 'Listen, we put in a very hard year working on health care reform and the time for action is now,'" said Rep. Ron Kind of Wisconsin, one of several Democrats who met with Obama at the White House on Thursday.

Obama joked that the political battle has contributed to the recent rise in his cholesterol, Kind said, and the president noted how ironic it would be if health care drove him to his grave.

But Obama is anything but sickly these days, making health care pitches Monday in Philadelphia and Wednesday in St. Louis, and instructing aides to address every question or concern Democratic lawmakers possibly can raise.

*Continued on Page 4*

## Judge orders bus firm to stop interstate service



Police investigate the site of a tour bus accident on Friday, March 5, 2010, in Sacaton, Ariz. Authorities said the bus traveling from Mexico to Los Angeles collided with a pickup truck and rolled before landing upright on its wheels on Interstate 10 about 25 miles south of Phoenix.

*Associated Press*

SUE MAJOR HOLMES

Associated Press Writer

A federal judge has ordered a bus company involved in an Arizona crash that killed six people and injured more than a dozen others to cease interstate operations.

U.S. District Judge George King of the Central District of California in Los Angeles issued the order Saturday against Tierra Santa Inc. and its owner, Cayetano Martinez.

*Continued on Page 5*



In this May 13, 2009, file photo President Barack Obama, accompanied by Rep. George Miller, D-Calif., makes remarks on health care outside the Oval Office of the White House in Washington. As the president begins an all-out push to coax Congress into passing his health care proposals Miller said, "You've got to go out and sell that product and stop worrying about the process. And the president is a very powerful salesman for that product."

*Associated Press*

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# GOP senator urges Obama to shift on terror trials



Sen. Lindsey Graham, right, and Senator Joseph Lieberman, left.

WASHINGTON — A Republican senator is offering the White House a deal on terror trials.

Sen. Lindsey Graham says that if the president agrees to try alleged Sept. 11 mastermind Khalid Sheik Mohammed and four accused henchmen in military tribunals, he will press fellow Republicans to vote to close the Guantanamo Bay prison.

Graham, interviewed Sunday

on CBS' "Face the Nation," says reversing Attorney General Eric Holder's plan to try the suspected terrorists in a civilian court in New York City would be seen as an act of leadership by the public.

The White House is reviewing Holder's plan and no new recommendation has been presented to the president. A decision is not expected for several weeks.

Beyond Mohammed's case,

Graham also said a new legal framework is needed to deal with the most dangerous detainees at Guantanamo.

"We need a legal system that gives due process to the detainee, but also understands they didn't rob a liquor store," he said.

Closing Guantanamo was a key promise that President Barack Obama made when it took office, but it remains unfulfilled as he battles

pressure from both sides of the political aisle. Most Republicans says it's a mistake to shutter the prison and hold trials in civilian courts while Obama's Democratic allies say closing Guantanamo down is a vital step in remaking America's image abroad.

In a full-page ad in Sunday's New York Times, the American Civil Liberties Union says if Obama fails to back Holder, he will be extending the policies of the Bush administration. The ad shows an image of Obama on the left and in subsequent panels moving to the right the image morphs into a portrayal President George W. Bush, who set up Guantanamo for suspected terrorists.

"As president, Barack Obama must decide whether to keep his solemn promise to restore our constitution and due process, or ignore his vow and continue the Bush-Cheney policies," the ad states.

The ACLU says the U.S. criminal justice system has

successfully handled more than 300 terrorism cases compared to three in military tribunals.

The White House did not plan to respond to the ACLU ad.

"He's getting beat up badly from the left, but the ACLU theory of how to manage this war I think is way off base," Graham said. "And those who want to waterboard on the right and believe that we should keep (Guantanamo) open forever and use any technique to get information, I think they're equally off base."

Graham said he will need help from senior military officials, including Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, and former Bush administration officials.

"I can't do it by myself," he said. "I'm going to need people from the Bush administration to try to close (Guantanamo), to put aside partisanship, rally around this president, stand by his side and say, 'Let's close Gitmo safely,'" he said. □

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# Database can crack missing person cases — if used

By STEVE KARNOWSKI  
Associated Press Writer

MINNEAPOLIS—A new online database promises to crack some of the nation's 100,000 missing persons cases and provide answers to desperate families, but only a fraction of law enforcement agencies are using it. The clearinghouse, dubbed NamUs (Name Us), offers a quick way to check whether a missing loved one might be among the 40,000 sets of unidentified remains that languish at any given time with medical examiners across the country. NamUs is free, yet many law enforcement agencies still aren't aware of it, and others aren't convinced they should use their limited staff resources to participate.

Janice Smolinski hopes that changes — and soon. Her son, Billy, was 31 when he vanished five years ago. The Cheshire, Conn., woman fears he was murdered, his body hidden away. She's now championing a bill in Congress, named "Billy's Law" after her son, that would set aside more funding and make other changes to encourage wider use of NamUs. Only about 1,100 of the nearly 17,000 law enforcement agencies nationwide are registered to use the system, even though it already has been hailed for solving 16 cases since it became fully operational last year.

"As these cases become more well known, as people learn about the successes of NamUs, more and more agencies are going to want to be part of it," said Kristina Rose, acting director of the National Institute of Justice at the Justice Department.

Before NamUs, families and investigators had to go through the slow process of checking with medical examiner's offices one by one. As the Smolinski family searched for clues to Billy's fate, they met a maze of federal, state and nonprofit missing person databases that weren't completely public and didn't share information well with each other.

NamUs, the National Missing and Unidentified Persons System, allows one-stop sleuthing for amateurs, families and police. Anyone can enter all the data they have on a missing person, including descriptions, photos, fingerprints, dental

records and DNA. Medical examiners can enter the same data on unidentified bodies, and anyone can search the database for potential matches that warrant further investigation.

So far, about 6,200 sets of remains and nearly 2,800 missing people have been entered, said Kevin Lothridge, CEO of the National Forensic Science Technology Center in Largo, Fla., which runs NamUs for the Justice Department.

Detective Jim Shields of the Omaha, Neb., Police Department hadn't heard about NamUs until he saw a presentation at a conference in 2008. He then had a local volunteer associated with NamUs input his data on several missing people.

Among them was Luis Fernandez, who had been missing for nearly a year before his family went to police in 2008. Shields didn't have a lot on Fernandez, a known gang member who'd been in and out of jail — only gender, race, height, weight, age and some data on his tattoos.

It proved to be enough. Just a few weeks later, similarities were spotted with the unidentified remains of a homicide victim found in a farm field in Iowa in

2007. In January, a lab informed Shields it had a DNA match — and that he could break the news to Fernandez' family.

"I could say fairly certainly that this would never have been solved if not for NamUs," Shields said.

Some other recent successes:

- Paula Beverly Davis, of the Kansas City, Mo., area, had been missing for 22 years until a relative saw a public service announcement on TV in October for NamUs and told her sister, who gave it a try. Among the 10 matches her sister found were a body dumped in Ohio in 1987 that had the same rose and unicorn tattoos as her sister. DNA tests confirmed the body was Davis.
- Sonia Lente disappeared in 2002. Last June, an amateur cybersleuth with the Doe Network, a nationwide volunteer group that helps law enforcement solve cold cases, noticed similarities between Lente's description in NamUs and an unidentified body found near Albuquerque, N.M., in 2004. Dental records later established it was Lente.

Detective Stuart Somershoe of the Phoenix Police Department said his agency, which has over 500 open missing persons cases,



In this combination of photos, each released by the respective family, Amber Dubois, left, and Chelsea King, right, are shown. Police are investigating John Albert Gardner III, who pleaded not guilty Wednesday March 3, 2010 to the murder of Chelsea King, in the disappearance of Dubois, a 14-year-old who vanished a year ago while walking to school.

Associated Press

just finished entering 100 cases into NamUs. He's hopeful his department can make a match.

"It's kind of time-consuming but I think it's a worthwhile program," Somershoe said. □

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### TRUST ME

#### Continued from Front Page

Some answers, however, rely more on faith than fact. Confronting party unrest on his left and right, Obama is calling for political courage, citing historic opportunities and essentially saying “trust me” in areas inherently murky, uncertain and out of his control. The process for getting health care legislation through Congress is tough enough already, and Republicans are determined to derail it.

Obama told House liberals last week that he understands their frustration in seeing priorities — such as allowing the government to sell insurance in competition with private companies — dropped from the revised legislation. He promised to work with them in the future to improve health care laws, said Rep.

Barbara Lee of California, who leads the Congressional Black Caucus.

“He said, ‘This is the first step, a foundation that we can build upon,’” she said. “He made a commitment to work with us on all the issues that are outstanding, and there are many.”

It’s unclear whether Obama can keep such promises, especially with Republicans expecting to gain House and Senate seats this fall.

Obama is asking his party’s House moderates to have a different kind of faith. The party’s strategy calls for House Democrats, despite many misgivings, to go along with a health care bill the Senate passed in December. Obama would sign it into law, but senators would promise to make numerous changes demanded by House



**In this Dec. 15, 2009, file photo Republicans, Sen. Lamar Alexander, R-Tenn., with Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell of Kentucky, center, and Senate Minority Whip Jon Kyl of Arizona, talk about the health care overhaul on Capitol Hill in Washington. Alexander said of the president’s all-out push to get his health care proposals passed that he and House Democratic leaders are asking their colleagues to “hold hands, jump off a cliff and hope Harry Reid catches them,” a reference to the Senate Democratic leader from Nevada.**

*Associated Press*

Democrats. Because Senate Democrats no longer have the numbers to stop Republican stalling maneuvers, the changes would have to be made under Senate rules that require only simple majority votes.

Republicans are playing on House Democrats’ suspicions of their Senate colleagues, saying Senate Democrats may not keep their end of the bargain. The taunts often hit their marks.

“A big issue for the House is putting suspenders with belts on the plan to ensure we don’t get left holding the bag with just the Senate bill by itself,” said Rep. Joe Courtney, a Connecticut Democrat.

“The Senate has given us a lot of reason not to trust them,” Rep. Jason Altmire, a Pennsylvania Democrat, said on “Fox News Sunday.” A top prospect for switching his “no” vote on the initial House bill, he added: “Certainly, that’s a key component of the dynamic of getting the votes ... there has to be some certainty that the Senate is going to follow through on their part.”

Democratic leaders are

considering several ways to reassure nervous House members, who felt burned last year when they voted for climate legislation — a vote many now regret — and the Senate never did its part.

Possibilities include a letter pledging compliance, signed by 51 or more Senate Democrats, or a parliamentary move that essentially would suspend the House-passed bill until the follow-up Senate action takes place.

Congressional insiders say the likeliest path involves Obama and others convincing House members that Democrats, who control 59 of the Senate’s 100 seats, have more than enough votes for a simple majority, especially when Vice President Joe Biden can break a tie.

Even if the House does its part, Republican senators promise to use every tool they can to kill the Senate’s follow-up actions with delaying tactics, such as introducing unending streams of amendments.

Democrats say they believe they can grind down efforts over time, leaving Republicans exhausted and perhaps vulnerable to renewed

accusations of obstructionism.

A bigger worry for Democrats is that a dispute over abortion restrictions could cause as many as a dozen House Democrats to switch to “no” on health care even though they voted “yes” last year. If that happens, Obama and other party leaders will press some of the 39 House Democrats who voted “no” last year to switch sides. Such a switch can be defended politically, party leaders say, because the revised bill is less costly and excludes the contentious public insurance option.

Republicans are working overtime to thwart such strategies by sowing doubts and fears among Democrats. They say Obama is marching his party toward political suicide in a year when he’s not on the ballot.

Republican Sen. Lamar Alexander of Tennessee said the president and House Democratic leaders are asking their colleagues to “hold hands, jump off a cliff and hope Harry Reid catches them,” a reference to the Senate Democratic leader from Nevada. □

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# BUS SERVICE

Continued from Front Page

Martinez earlier signed a consent decree prohibiting him or any affiliated company from hauling passengers without U.S. Department of Transportation authority, which is required to take passengers from one state to another.

The Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration demanded that Van Nuys, California-based Tierra Santa stop operating Friday, the day of the crash south of Phoenix. The judge's order makes the shutdown enforceable by the court.

"They knew they were running illegally," Duane DeBruyne, a Department of Transportation spokesman in Washington, D.C., said Sunday.

A federal complaint to be filed against the company Monday says the motor carrier administration previously shut down Martinez, who then attempted "to reincarnate himself as a new carrier" that unsuccessfully sought Department of Transportation operating authority, the

department said in a news release Sunday.

"Martinez has shown a persistency and determination to continue operating under new entities and businesses," the release quotes the complaint as saying.

DeBruyne said further information from the complaint was not available because it had not been filed in court.

Thom Mrocek, a spokesman for the U.S. Attorney's Office in Los Angeles, said the complaint will be filed Monday, but that the consent decree Martinez signed late Friday already settled it.

The lawsuit process allows the court to have jurisdiction, and "if there's a violation, you could be brought into court," Mrocek said Sunday.

Messages left by The Associated Press on Saturday and Sunday seeking comment from Tierra Santa were not returned.

The bus that crashed early Friday entered the United States from Mexico at El Paso, Texas.

It was headed to Phoenix to



Arizona Department of Public Safety police officers look through the wreckage of a tour bus after a multi-car crash on Friday, March 5, 2010, in Sacaton, Ariz. Police say six people were killed in the crash on Interstate 10 about 25 miles south of Phoenix after a bus traveling from Mexico to Los Angeles struck a pickup truck and rolled before landing upright on its wheels.

Associated Press

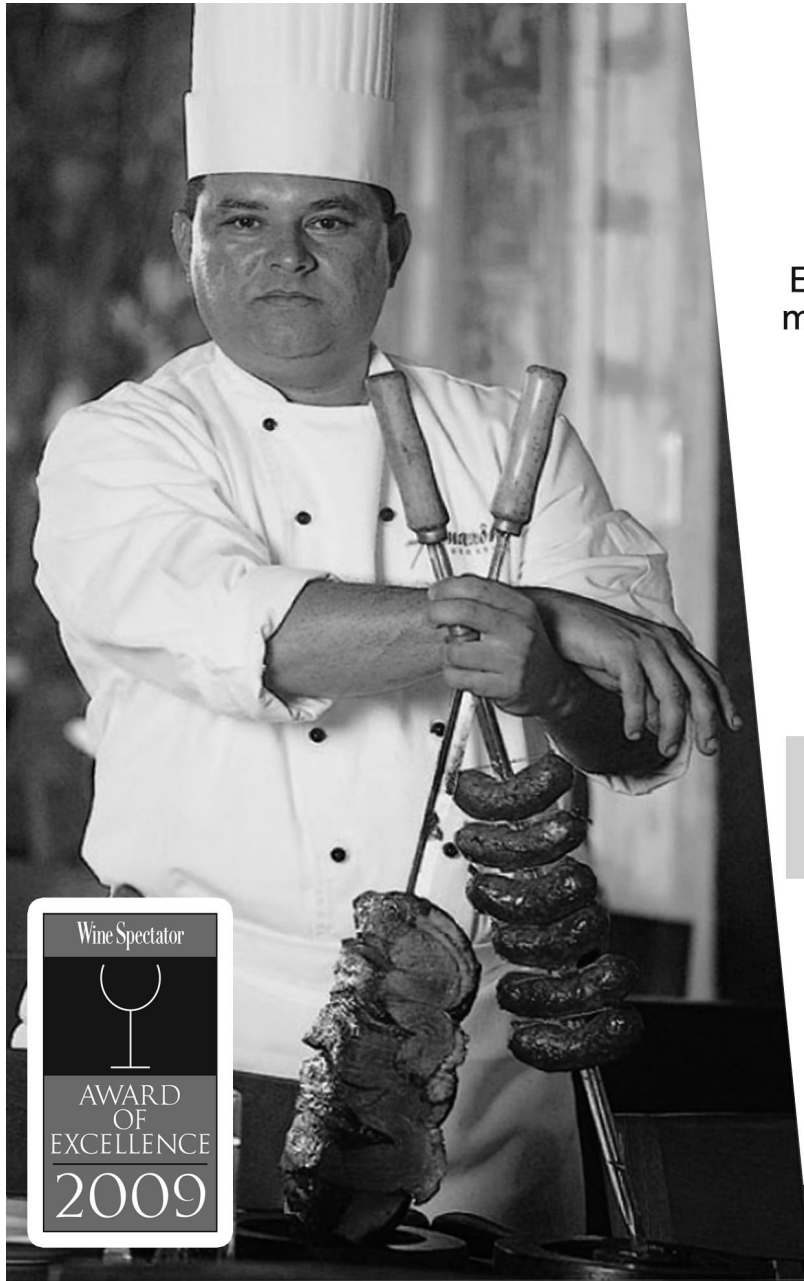
change drivers when it hit a pickup truck, veered onto the left shoulder of the road and rolled on Interstate 10 on the Gila River Indian Reservation. The impact crushed the roof and knocked out the windows.

More than a dozen passengers remained hospitalized over the weekend.

Tierra Santa applied last April for operating authority to haul passengers across state lines. The Department of Transportation notified

the company by registered mail that it could not conduct interstate transportation during the review, DeBruyne said.

The agency sought more information for the application but the company never responded. □



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## Iraqi voters undaunted by attacks that kill 36



Abdelrazik Abdellatif dips his finger in indelible ink after voting in Tikrit, Iraq on Sunday, March 7, 2010 in the country's parliamentary elections.

*Associated Press*

REBECCA SANTANA

Associated Press Writers

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqis defied insurgents who lobbed hand grenades at voters and bombed a polling station Sunday in an attempt to intimidate those taking part in elections that will determine whether their country can overcome deep sectarian divides as U.S. forces prepare to leave.

The conclusion of the vote, however, did not spell an immediate end to political uncertainty. It could be days until results come in and with the fractured nature of Iraqi politics, it could take months to form a government.

Sunnis and Shiites seemed united in one way Sunday — defiance in the face of violence. Many came out of polling booths waving fingers dipped in purple ink in a now-iconic image synonymous with Iraq's democracy. In one Baghdad neighborhood, relatives who had just lost a

family member in a bombing walked down to the polling booth to vote.

The violence was a direct challenge to Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki who has gained popularity as violence across the country has plummeted.

"I voted for Nouri al-Maliki because I trust him as a man who succeeded in getting rid of militias and building a strong state," said Saadi Mahdi, a 43-year old engineer in the southern oil city of Basra. It was there that al-Maliki first established himself as a leader willing to go against his fellow Shiites when he routed militias aligned with anti-American cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

It was an election day that demonstrated starkly how far the country, a rare democracy in the Middle East, has come since the last nationwide parliamentary vote in December 2005 and how much still holds it back.

Instead of unified sectarian

parties playing strictly to their Shiite, Sunni and Kurdish voters, the political blocs contesting the election were much more fractured and made at least some effort to cross over into other sects. Whereas only party names were known in the 2005 ballot — in order to protect candidates from assassination — this time cities were plastered with candidates' faces on posters as Iraqis voted for individual people.

And the American military presence so prominent in 2005 was limited on election day to helicopters buzzing over head as a massive deployment of Iraqi forces took the lead on the ground.

Still the violence that shook Baghdad served as a reminder of the insurgency's persistence and adaptability.

Insurgents used mostly rockets, mortars and explosive-filled plastic bottles hidden under trash to terrorize voters on their way to the polls. With those tactics, they managed to get around a vehicle ban in place across the capital for most of the day and killed 36 people, almost all of them in Baghdad.

Al-Maliki faced a double challenge at the polls. Al-Sadr has aligned with another Shiite religious party — the Supreme Islamic Iraqi Council — to seek the prime minister's job. On the other side, al-Maliki is being challenged by former Prime Minister Ayad Allawi, a secular Shiite, whose nonsectarian stance and criticism of the current government has won him secular Shiite followers as well as Sunni supporters. □



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# Officers: Pakistan arrests American-born al-Qaida

ASHRAF KHAN

Associated Press Writer

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)

— The American-born spokesman for al-Qaida has been arrested by Pakistani intelligence officers in the southern city of Karachi, two officers and a government official said Sunday as video emerged of him urging U.S. Muslims to attack their own country.

The arrest of Adam Gadahn is a major victory in the U.S.-led battle against al-Qaida and will be taken as a sign that Pakistan, criticized in the past for being an untrustworthy ally, is cooperating more fully with Washington. It follows the recent detentions of several Afghan Taliban commanders in Karachi, including the movement's No. 2 commander.

Gadahn has appeared in more than half a dozen al-Qaida videos, taunting and threatening the West and calling for its destruction. A U.S. court charged Gadahn with treason in 2006, making him the first American to face such a charge in more than 50 years.

He was arrested in the sprawling southern metropolis of Karachi in recent days, two officers who took part in the operation said. A senior government official also confirmed the arrest, but said it happened Sunday. The discrepancy could not immediately be resolved.

They spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to release the information.

The intelligence officials said Gadahn was being interrogated

by Pakistani officials. Pakistani agents and those from the CIA work closely on some operations in Pakistan, but it was not clear if any Americans were involved in the operation or questioning.

In the past, Pakistan has handed over some al-Qaida suspects arrested on its soil to the United States.

Gadahn grew up on a goat farm in Riverside County, California, and converted to Islam at a mosque in nearby Orange County.

He moved to Pakistan in 1998, according to the FBI, and is said to have attended an al-Qaida training camp six years later, serving as a translator and consultant. He has been wanted by the FBI since 2004, and there is a \$1 million reward for information leading to his arrest or conviction.



In this Oct. 11, 2006 file photo, a wanted poster of Adam Yahiyeh Gadahn is displayed at the Justice Department in Washington. Pakistani officials say Adam Gadahn, the American-born spokesman for al-Qaida, has been arrested Sunday March 7, 2010.

Associated Press

The treason charge carries the death penalty if he is convicted. He was also charged with two counts of providing material support to a designated foreign terrorist organization.

The 31-year-old is known by various aliases including Yahya Majadin Adams and Azzam al-Amriki.

His most recent video was posted Sunday, praising the U.S. Army major charged with killing 13 people in Fort Hood, Texas, as a role model for other Muslims. The video released Sunday appeared to have been made after the end of the year, but it was unclear exactly when. □



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# Philippines hunts for rebels behind deadly ambush



Demonstrators clash with police as they are dispersed while holding a rally demanding the release of detained alleged communist rebels outside the Court of Appeals in Manila, Philippines on Monday, Feb. 15, 2010. The Philippine military presented in court 43 detainees for a habeas corpus hearing following complaints from the detainees lawyers' that they were health workers falsely charged and tortured.

*Associated Press*

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Hundreds of Filipino troops searched Sunday for communist guerrillas who killed 11 soldiers in a setback for the military's drive to defeat

a four-decade insurgency before President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo leaves office in June.

Seven other soldiers were wounded in the attack Saturday by about 60

guerrillas of the New People's Army near Mansalay township in Mindoro Oriental province, about 150 miles south of Manila.

Several rebels may have been injured during the three-hour gunbattle, military officials said.

It was the army's biggest loss in a single clash so far this year. Last month, rebels killed five soldiers and wounded eight others in a battle in the northern Philippines.

"We'll be conducting an investigation if there was possible tactical blunder in the operation," army Lt. Gen. Roland Detabali said. "It might have not been well-supervised."

Detabali wondered why the soldiers, who had been searching for a group of rebels, ventured out at daybreak when they could be easily seen, instead of launching an offensive at night.

Air force helicopters brought the remains of the dead to Manila on Sunday.

About 1,000 soldiers, including reinforcements from nearby Quezon

province, have been deployed to hunt down the guerrillas, Detabali said.

In separate fighting Sunday, an army lieutenant and five communist rebels were killed in a clash in a village near central Cadiz city that broke out when an army patrol stumbled on a group of rebels, army spokesman Lt. Col. Arnulfo Marcelo Burgos said.

Arroyo has ordered the military to end the communist rebellion, one of Asia's longest, by the end of her term in June. The rebels have dismissed the deadline.

The rebels say they are fighting to set up a Marxist state in the country. Their ranks have thinned to about 4,000 from a peak of more than 25,000 in the mid-1980s because of battle setbacks, surrenders and factionalism.

Peace talks between the rebels and the government brokered by Norway collapsed in 2004 after the rebels accused the Philippine government of instigating their inclusion on U.S. and European terrorist blacklists. □

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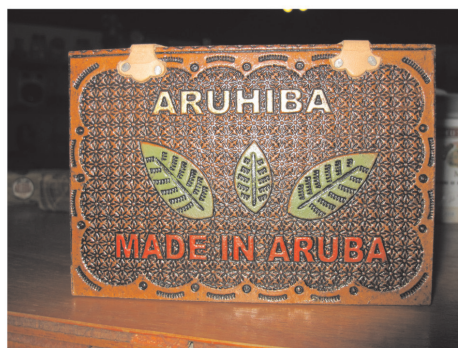
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# U.S. troops withdrawing en masse from Port-Au-Prince

By BEN FOX and JENNIFER KAY

Associated Press Writers

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — U.S. troops are withdrawing from the shattered capital, leaving many Haitians anxious that the most visible portion of international aid is ending even as the city is still mired in misery and vulnerable to unrest.

As troops packed their duffels and began to fly home this weekend, Haitians and some aid workers wondered whether U.N. peacekeepers and local police are up to the task of maintaining order. More than a half-million people still live in vast encampments that have grown more unpleasant in recent days with the early onset of rainy season.

Some also fear the departure of the American troops is a sign of dwindling international interest in the plight of the Haitian people following

the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake.

"I would like for them to stay in Haiti until they rebuild the country and everybody can go back to their house," said Marjorie Louis, a 27-year-old mother of two, as she warmed a bowl of beans for her family over a charcoal fire on the fake grass of the national stadium. U.S. officials say the long-anticipated draw down of troops is not a sign of waning commitment to Haiti, only a change in the nature of the operation. Security will now be the responsibility of the 10,000-strong U.N. peacekeeping force and the Haitian police.

A smaller number of U.S. forces — the exact number has not yet been determined — will be needed as the U.N. and Haitian government reassert control, said Gen. Douglas Fraser, head of U.S.

Southern Command, which runs the Haiti operation.

"Our mission is largely accomplished," Fraser said. American forces arrived in the immediate aftermath of the quake to treat the wounded, provide emergency water and rations and help prevent a feared outbreak of violence among desperate survivors. They also helped reopen the airport and seaport.

There has been no widespread violence but security is a real issue. A U.N. food convoy traveling from Gonaives to Dessalines on Friday was stopped and overrun by people, who looted two trucks before peacekeepers regained control, U.N. officials said. They managed to escort the other two back to Gonaives. There were no reports of injuries.

The military operation was criticized by some Haitian



U.S. Army soldiers load their duffels prior to their departure from Haiti at the international airport in Port-au-Prince, Sunday, March 7, 2010. U.S. troops are withdrawing from this capital leaving residents fearing that their departure is a sign of dwindling international interest in the plight of the Haitian people following the catastrophic Jan. 12 earthquake.

Associated Press

senators and foreign leaders as heavy-handed and inappropriate in a country that had been occupied by American forces for nearly two decades in the early 20th century. But ordinary Haitians largely welcomed the troops, many out of disenchantment with their own government. "They should stay because they have been doing a good job," 35-year-old Lesly Pierre said as his family prepared dinner

under a tarp at an encampment in Petionville. "If it was up to our government, we wouldn't have gotten any help at all."

U.S. soldiers said they had nothing but warm encounters with the Haitian people.

"They're real good people. They just want help," Army Private First Class Troy Sims, a 19-year-old from Fresno, California, said as he prepared to board a flight back to the U.S. □



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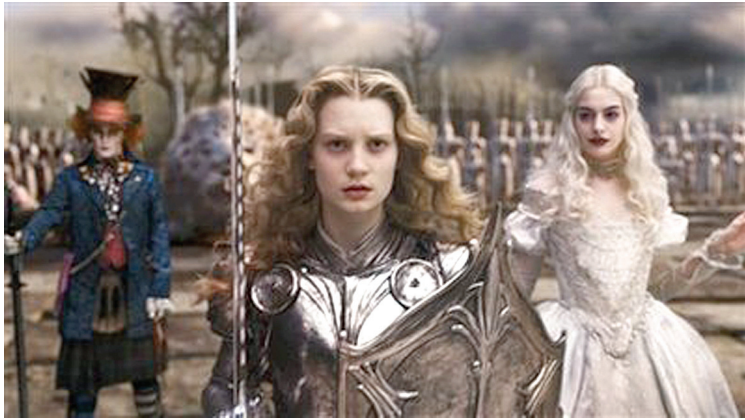
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# 'Alice' opens with \$116.3 million, a 3-D record



By JAKE COYLE,  
AP Entertainment Writer  
NEW YORK — Tim Burton and Johnny Depp's trip down the rabbit hole drew huge crowds, as "Alice in Wonderland" earned a whopping \$116.3 million in its opening weekend — a record for a 3-D film. The surprisingly huge total easily surpassed all other films in release and gave Walt Disney Studios an even bigger opening than that of the hugely popular 3-D film "Avatar." It also marked the biggest opening weekend for a non-sequel. "This is just one of those cultural phenomena that has caught everybody's interest," said Chuck Viane, Disney's president of distribution. "They don't come like this very often."

The film beat forecasts that ranged between \$65-\$75 million, and the surprising results added some intrigue to Oscar Sunday. Before the weekend, Disney and 20th Century Fox competed over the available 3-D ready screens; screens outfitted for 3-D are rapidly rising, but still amount to fewer than 4,000 in the U.S. and Canada. Before "Alice," many of those screens were still dedicated to Fox's box-office behemoth, "Avatar," which is up for nine Academy Awards on Sunday, including best picture. In its 12th week of release, "Avatar" earned \$7.7 million over the weekend, bringing its cumulative domestic total to \$720.2 million. Asked whether fewer 3-D and IMAX screens hurt "Avatar,"

Chris Aronson, head of distribution for Fox, said, "No question." "Are we disappointed? Sure," said Aronson. "But there are certain market forces that are beyond anything we can do. To have an 11-week window is pretty much unheard of. It certainly allowed this movie to be discovered and witnessed by so many people." "Avatar" isn't disappearing, though, and it can be expected to regain 3-D and IMAX screens, especially if it wins best picture. "We'll have that negotiation tomorrow morning with exhibition, without a doubt," said Aronson. It also seemed likely that "Alice" benefited from the "Avatar"-effect in galvanizing audiences for 3-D movies. "Alice in Wonderland" is the first film released in 3-D since James Cameron's epic. "Alice" was shot in 2-D, but transferred to 3-D in post-production. "In the wake of the impact of 'Avatar,' there's a whole new audience that's been indoctrinated to 3-D," said Paul Dergarabedian, box-office analyst for Hollywood.

"That paid off big for 'Alice in Wonderland.'" The weekend's second best performer at the box-office was Overture's "Brooklyn's Finest," Antoine Fuqua's gritty police thriller, which earned \$13.5 million in its first weekend, according to studio estimates. Martin Scorsese's "Shutter Island" for Paramount followed closely with \$13.3 million in its third week of release, bringing its cumulative total to \$95.8 million. Warner Bros.'s comedy "Cop Out" came in fourth, adding \$9.1 million for a two-week total of \$32.4 million. But "Alice" thoroughly dominated the weekend, surprising even Disney. The film was expected to open closer to \$65-75 million. Worldwide, it took in \$210.3 million. It was a record release for the first quarter of the year, typically a time of lower box-office expectations and critically acclaimed Oscar contenders. The previous first quarter record was Mel Gibson's "Passion of the Christ," which opened with \$83.8 million in Feb. 2004. "We went into Friday thinking

that we really had a big hit with us, and then all of a sudden the numbers started to roll in," said Viane. "Alice" went on to make \$41 million on Friday alone. "We said, 'Oh my gosh. This is bigger than any of us could have anticipated,'" said Viane.

## New music museum in Jamaica to show Marley, Tosh

KINGSTON, Jamaica — Jamaica plans to open a music museum next year that officials say will feature rare pieces from the island's music history, such as the sole album that the late reggae star Bob Marley produced before he gained international fame. Artifacts will include a cassette tape in which another reggae great, Peter Tosh, jams a blues song with Mick Jagger and Keith Richards of the Rolling Stones, museum curator Herbie Miller said Sunday.

The tape was recorded in June 1977 in New York City, said Miller, who was Tosh's former manager.

It will be placed alongside the album "Escape from Babylon" by American singer Martha Velez that Marley produced in 1976.

The museum is requesting donations to help preserve Jamaica's vibrant music history. The island's music preservation took a major hit two years ago when officials discovered that a massive collection of 1970s music, including original recordings by Marley and Tosh, disappeared from the archives of the former Jamaica Broadcasting Corp.

The collection has not been found.

Miller said a date has not been set for the opening of the Jamaica Music Museum in Kingston. It will be operated by the government through the Institute of Jamaica, which oversees cultural affairs.

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Photo by Diane Keijzer





## Bulls may run more from March 2009 lows



**FILE-** In this file photo of March 9, 2009, a trader covers his face while working on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange. If you're confused about the outlook for the economy and the stock market, then you've got good company — the Wall Street economists and strategists who are supposed to have this all figured out.

(AP Photo/Henny Ray Abrams, file)

By Caroline Valetkevitch  
NEW YORK (Reuters) — Bulls may get more room to run this week on the anniversary of the March 2009 lows -- if U.S. stock investors see more signs of stability after Friday's rally on smaller-than-expected job losses.

The catalysts could be February retail sales and March consumer sentiment. On Friday, stocks jumped after U.S. Labor Department data showed employers cut fewer jobs than expected in February, which enhanced the perception that the job market may be on the verge of recovery. The Nasdaq (.IXIC) marked its highest close in 18 months. Both the Dow Jones industrial average (.DJI) and the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) closed at six-week highs.

Tuesday will mark the first anniversary of the stock market's slide to 12-year closing lows on March 9, 2009. Since then, the Standard & Poor's 500 Index (.SPX) has climbed nearly 70 percent.

Much of the stock market's gain has been driven by stronger-than-expected economic data and earnings, which have pointed to a recovery.

But investors have been eager to see more robust signs of strength, especially in the nation's job market.

"Jobs are absolutely key," said Bob Doll, chief equity strategist for BlackRock Inc (BLK.N), one of the world's largest asset managers with about \$3.35 trillion in assets under management.

"The manufacturing sector is improving. The U.S. consumer, at least in soft goods, is spending some money, inflation remains contained, housing is bottoming, and the next thing investors need to see is some job growth."

Unemployment near 10 percent has, in part, held back consumer spending, economists have said.

This Friday brings the Commerce Department's monthly retail sales data for February along with the Thomson Reuters/University of Michigan preliminary reading on March consumer sentiment.

Besides that data, investors will have weekly jobless claims and the international trade deficit to mull over.

Investors will also keep their radar trained this week on Greece's debt problems, which

### could keep a lid on sentiment. STRONG WEEK FOR STOCKS

The three major U.S. stock indexes finished the week on a strong note. For the week, the Dow Jones industrial average rose 2.3 percent, while the S&P 500 gained 3.1 percent. And the Nasdaq Composite Index climbed 3.9 percent, its best weekly gain since October.

A year ago, the Dow and the S&P 500 were trading at 12-year lows, with uncertainty over a plan to salvage banks among the thorny issues hanging over the market.

"The black clouds of the day a year ago were the non-zero probability of depression and the concern about the potential nationalization of the banking system," Doll said.

"The dissipation of those two concerns has led to this massive rally, and now it's going to be grinded out with economic recovery and earnings improvement," he said.

### REASSESSING THE SNOW JOB

For Friday's retail report, the consensus forecast, according to economists polled by Reuters, calls for a decline of 0.2 percent in February, compared with a gain of 0.5 percent in January. Excluding autos, the forecast is for a gain of 0.1 percent in February versus January's gain of 0.6 percent.

Analysts have said severe U.S. winter snowstorms last month may have had a negative impact on the data.

"The snowstorms could have probably done some damage to the February data of retail sales. So people will be looking at what damage that has done to consumer spending," said John Praveen, chief investment strategist at Prudential International Investments Advisers LLC in Newark, New Jersey. □



Akio Toyoda, president of Toyota Motor, Co., left, accompanied by Yoshimi Inaba, chief executive officer and president of Toyota Motor North America, Inc., is seen on the screen during a Toyota's crisis meeting in Toyota city, central Japan, Friday, March 5, 2010. Toyota's brand is in crisis but its cars are safe, top executives told thousands of workers at a meeting Friday aimed at boosting morale amid the automaker's recall crisis.

(AP Photo/Koji Sasahara)

## Toyota disputes critic who blames electronics

NEW YORK — Toyota Motor Corp. plans Monday to try to undercut suggestions that its electronics systems caused the sudden acceleration problems that led to the recall of more than 8 million vehicles.

The automaker plans an event in which it will seek to debunk a critic who claims faulty gas pedals did not cause the sudden acceleration.

Toyota will aim to duplicate the scenario created by David W. Gilbert, a professor at Southern Illinois University Carbondale. Gilbert told Congress on Feb. 23 that he was able to recreate sudden acceleration in a Toyota vehicle by manipulating its electronics.

The company is calling in the director of Stanford University's Center for Automotive Research to try to refute the claims. Toyota said Stanford professor Chris Gerdes will show that the malfunctions Gilbert produced "are completely unrealistic under real-world conditions and can easily be reproduced on a wide range of vehicles made by other manufacturers." Stanford's Center for Automotive Research is funded by a group of auto companies, including Toyota.

Toyota also has hired a consulting firm to study whether electronic problems could cause unintended acceleration. The firm, Exponent Inc., released an interim report that has found no link between the two.

The event planned Monday is part of a broad campaign by the world's biggest automaker to discredit critics, repair its damaged reputation and begin restoring trust in its vehicles. On Friday, a congressional committee questioned Toyota's efforts to find the causes of the problems. It also questioned whether the company had sufficiently investigated the issue of electronic defects.

Toyota executives will also address recall issues at its annual suppliers meeting in Kentucky on Tuesday. □



# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY

### NHL Roundup

## Malkin's goal carries Penguins past Bruins, 2-1

**The Associated Press**  
**PITTSBURGH (AP)** — Evgeni Malkin scored early in the third period after former linemate Pascal Dupuis' equalizer as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Boston Bruins 2-1 on Sunday. Marc-Andre Fleury stopped 21 shots by the NHL's lowest-scoring team to help the Penguins end Boston's five-game road winning streak. Malkin's 23rd goal was a wrist shot through traffic from the right circle less than 90 seconds into the third period. Malkin has at least one point in 16 of 17 games. Bruins center Marc Savard was carried off the ice on a stretcher after being leveled Matt Cooke in the third period.  
**Flames 5, Wild 2**

At St. Paul, Minnesota, Jarome Iginla had his 10th career hat trick and Vesa Toskala made 27 saves in his first start since being traded to Calgary. Rene Bourque and Mark Giordano also scored for the Flames, who stayed within a point of Detroit for the final playoff spot in the Western Conference. Guillaume Latendresse scored twice for the Wild. Iginla also scored in the third on another slap shot during a 5-on-3 power play. He added an empty-net goal with 1:33 left.  
**Red Wings 5, Blackhawks 4**  
 At Chicago, Pavel Datsyuk capped a five-goal second period as Detroit rallied to beat Chicago, spoiling a hat track by the Blackhawks' Andrew Ladd.



Brian Rafalski, Nicklas Lidstrom, Jason Williams and Valtteri Filppula also scored in the second period for Detroit, which came back from a 2-0 deficit to win for the fourth time in five games. Duncan Keith opened the scoring for Chicago at the 4:24 mark before Ladd made it 2-0, firing in a one-timer from the right circle off a turnover.  
**Hurricanes 4, Thrashers 0**  
 At Atlanta, Manny Legace made 27 saves for Carolina's first shutout of the season, and

Jussi Jokinen had a goal and an assist. Legace improved to 9-5-2 with his 24th NHL shutout and first since April 5, 2008, for St. Louis against Columbus. Carolina has won eight of nine overall. After losing its first 13 road games of the season, Carolina has won five of its last seven away from home. Brandon Sutter, Joni Pitkanen and Rod Brind'Amour also scored.  
**Canucks 4, Predators 2**  
 At Nashville, Tennessee,

Jannik Hansen scored the go-ahead goal with just under 6 minutes left in the third period for Vancouver. Mikael Samuelsson, Alexander Edler and Henrik Sedin also scored for Vancouver, which has won three of its last four. The Canucks are 7-5-0 so far on their franchise-high 14-game trip. Jason Arnott and Jordin Tootoo had goals for the Predators, who have dropped back-to-back games after winning their previous three. □

### MOTORSPORTS

## Kurt Busch wins again at Atlanta after 2 crashes



Driver Kevin Harvick poses with the trophy in victory lane after winning the NASCAR Camping World Series E-Z-Go 200 truck race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga., Saturday, March 6, 2010. AP

**PAUL NEWBERRY**  
**AP Sports Writer**

**HAMPTON, Georgia (AP)** — Kurt Busch survived a couple of restarts and 16 extra laps to win again Sunday at Atlanta Motor Speedway, a race marred by accusations of an intentional crash that sent a car hurtling toward the main stands upside down. Busch won the spring race at the 1.54-mile trioval for the second year in a row, beating Matt Kenseth to the line by nearly half a second. Juan Pablo Montoya was third, followed by Kasey Kahne and Paul Menard. The race went 341 laps instead of its scheduled 325 because of two big crashes. The first one drew the most attention. Carl Edwards, running 156 laps behind, clipped Brad Keselowski and caused his car to spin, then lift into the air at around 190 mph. It smashed into the barrier in front of

the stands roof-first, then flipped back onto the track right side up. Keselowski was OK, but NASCAR ordered Edwards to park his car and summoned him to its trailer for a tongue-lashing. "To come back and just intentionally wreck someone, that's not cool," Keselowski said. "He could have killed someone in the grandstands." On the first attempt at a green-white-checked finish, another crash took out seven cars coming through turns three and four. Finally, they got in two clean laps, and it was Busch all the way for his third career win in Atlanta. "You have to adjust to whatever circumstances there are to win these races," said Busch, who claimed his 21st career victory and snapped Jimmie Johnson's two-race winning streak. "I felt we won the race outright today. There's no doubt we did the job on pit road. We did the job on long runs. We hit it right on

the restarts. That's what I'm most proud of." Keselowski nicked Edwards early in the race, which sent him crashing into Joey Logano. Edwards spent much of the day in the garage, but returned to take out his frustration in what appeared to be an intentional tap on Keselowski coming across the start-finish line. After Edwards was ordered off the track, he drove defiantly around the quarter-mile track in front of the stands and went backward down the pit lane. Once he climbed from the car, he didn't even bother with a denial. "Brad knows the deal between him and I," Edwards said. "The scary part was his car went airborne, which was not what I expected at all. At the end of the day, we're out here to race and people have to have respect for one another and I have a lot of respect for people's safety."

*Continued on Page 15*

*Associated Press*



# Magic get revenge, top Lakers in finals rematch

By ANTONIO GONZALEZ  
Associated Press Writer

ORLANDO, Fla. — Vince Carter had 25 points, Dwight Howard finished with 15 points and 16 rebounds and the Orlando Magic beat the Lakers 96-94 on Sunday to hand Los Angeles its first three-game losing streak of the Pau Gasol-Kobe Bryant Era.

Carter made his first 13 free throws and kept the Magic in control, showing signs of why Orlando made the move for the eight-time All-Star after losing to the Lakers in last year's finals. But Carter's lone miss gave the Lakers a chance at the end, with Bryant's 20-foot jumper falling short.

Bryant had 34 points and Gasol added 20 points for the Lakers, walking to the locker room distraught and dejected after their latest loss. And with quite a different feeling than that champagne-soaked championship celebration last June.

But this one had all the drama of that series.

Matt Barnes made a 3-pointer to push the Magic's lead to six with 1:10 remaining. A missed free throw by Jameer Nelson gave the Lakers a chance to tie, and Bryant delivered with a 3-pointer — if only for a second — with 12.9 seconds remaining.

Bryant jumped into his teammates pouring out from the bench in what would be a premature celebration. Officials reviewed the play

and ruled that it was only a two-pointer. And just like that, the Lakers are in the first three-game skid since they acquired Gasol from Memphis in February 2008.

The rematch had the physical feel of a finals. Bryant and Barnes continuously traded elbows and were each hit with a technical foul in the third quarter after going chest-to-chest in a verbal spat. Barnes had a put-back dunk a few plays later and dangled his legs on Bryant, who extended his right arm slightly into his opponent's chest, leading to another confrontation.

Howard interjected and was called for a technical after muttering a few words at Bryant. The two All-Stars and Olympic teammates kept the verbal jabs going, showing no similar love when their NBA teams meet.

All the rough and tough play gave way to a foul fest.

The teams combined to shoot 29 free throws — with Orlando going 17 for 18 — in the opening quarter alone. Howard and Andrew Bynum were sidelined in foul trouble for most of the first three quarters, but a strong effort from Carter and the Magic bench put Orlando ahead by 12 points late in the third.

Then the Lakers provided a reminder of the finals.

They came back just like they did in Games 4 and 5 last year in Orlando,

scoring 10 straight points — including the first eight to start the fourth — to cut the Magic's lead to 74-72.

Howard answered with a thunderous dunk over Gasol, who was called for a flagrant-one foul on the play about halfway through the fourth.

Then like Game 4 — when Howard missed a pair of crucial free throws — he again missed badly on both, but still put Orlando ahead 81-74 in what would be a back-and-forth finish. □



Los Angeles Lakers guard Kobe Bryant (24) runs off the court after missing a shot at the final buzzer that would have tied the score in an NBA basketball game against the Orlando Magic in Orlando, Fla., Sunday, March 7, 2010. Orlando won 96-94.

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Camilo Villegas, of Colombia, lifts the trophy as he poses for photographers after winning the Honda Classic golf tournament in Palm Beach Gardens, Fla., Sunday, March 7, 2010. Villegas finished 13-under par.

Associated Press

# Villegas runs away to win Honda Classic

By TIM REYNOLDS

AP Sports Writer

PALM BEACH GARDENS, Fla. — Camilo Villegas was checking his phone constantly on the driving range, barely bothering to hit any balls and instead seeking updates on how his brother was doing at a Nationwide Tour event in their native Colombia.

As Villegas showed all week, practice can be overrated.

Villegas shot a final-round 68 to win the Honda Classic by five shots Sunday over Anthony Kim, his third PGA Tour victory and a perfect way to cap a week that began with one celebration and ended with another.

He finished at 13-under 267, the lowest 72-hole score since the Honda moved to PGA National in 2007, four shots better than Y.E. Yang's winning total a year ago. And Villegas made it look easy most of the way, too, capping his day with a 20-footer for birdie, then raising both hands

skyward.

"I've just had good vibes in me all week," said Villegas, who climbed to No. 12 in the world rankings.

Those vibes were never better than Sunday.

He led by only two after Vijay Singh made a 45-foot birdie putt at the par-3 fifth, but three straight birdies — starting with a 25-footer on No. 8 — sent Villegas to 15 under and six shots clear of the field.

Good thing he had that cushion, because the putter stopped working after that.

Fortunately for Villegas, no one made much of a run.

"It's very special," Villegas said. "I'm just very privileged to do what I do. But trust me, it's tough. These guys are good. That is so true. Those guys are good."

He missed short par putts on 11 and 12, three-putted from 50 feet on the par-3 15th for another bogey, but never lost control of the lead and ended up pocketing the \$1,008

million winner's share.

Steely eyed for most of the day, Villegas finally acknowledged the crowd as he walked up 18, waving and secure in the knowledge that he was getting his first victory since the Tour Championship in 2008.

"Fair play to him," Justin Rose said. "It was nice to even be in a position to kind of think that way, no doubt."

Kim shot 67 and Rose had by far the best round of the day, a 64 that was three shots better than anyone else. Paul Casey (67) and Vijay Singh (72) tied for fourth, seven shots back.

"I hung in there," said Kim, who got his best finish since tying for second at the season-opening Mercedes-Benz Championship in 2009. "I still haven't put four good ones together but I'm trying as hard as I can to get there. I'm working on the right things and I'm sure it will come."

Villegas didn't even play a practice round at PGA National this week, after a travel schedule that he somehow found exhilarating.

After finishing tied for eighth at the Phoenix Open, Villegas headed back to his native Colombia on Monday for a slew of events — sponsor dinner, youth clinic, pre-tournament party, all within about a 36-hour window — to help open the Nationwide Tour's Pacific Rubiales Bogota Open, the first PGA Tour-sanctioned event in South America.

He showed up in South Florida on Wednesday, rolled out of his own bed to start the tournament on Thursday, and just kept rolling. An opening-round 66 had him tied for second, another 66 on Friday earned him a share of the lead, and he left the course Saturday night up by three after shooting 67.

Villegas is now the fourth player who's still under 30 with at least three PGA Tour wins, joining Adam Scott (three) and Dustin Johnson and Sean O'Hair (three each) □

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## KURT BUSH

*Continued from Page 12*

Johnson, the four-time defending Sprint Cup champion, was coming off wins at California and Las Vegas. He climbed into contention again, getting as high as third, but a bad pit stop and a scrape with Ryan Newman cost Johnson a chance to become the first driver since 2007 to make it three in a row. He finished 12th.

Denny Hamlin cut a tire with 36 laps to go — one of at least a dozen drivers taken out by tire problems — and Busch emerged from the pits out front. As the race headed into its final laps, Montoya was cutting some big chunks out of Busch's lead. Then things really got interesting.

The Edwards-Keselowski scrap with three laps to go forced the first attempt at an overtime finish. Busch came to the restart trailing a couple of drivers who took only two tires in the pits, but a brilliant move shot him right back to the front.

Busch hugged the rear bumper of Clint Bowyer's car, then dipped to the inside and split



Brad Keselowski (12) flips after being nudged by Carl Edwards, top, during the NASCAR Sprint Cup Series Kobalt Tools 500 auto race at Atlanta Motor Speedway in Hampton, Ga., Sunday, March 7, 2010.

*Associated Press*

both him and Menard heading through the first turn. Busch appeared to be pulling away, but Jamie McMurray got into Bowyer before the field could take the white flag, leading to

a seven-car pileup and another try for a clean finish. "We've got to win this race three times, maybe even four times," a frustrated Busch said on his radio.

There wasn't much drama on the next restart. Busch got away cleanly, zipped around the track two more times at more than 190 mph and took the checkered flag. He then returned to the flagstand, grabbed the symbol of his win and headed off on a victory lap in reverse.

Pole winner Dale Earnhardt Jr. lost the lead on the very first lap but was running near the front when a mysterious tire problem sent him to the pits on lap 114 under a green flag. He radioed that a tire felt loose, but the crew found it fully inflated after making the change. It wasn't immediately clear what caused the problem, though

the No. 88 team was able to rule out another problem with the axle, the issue that ruined Earnhardt's day at California two weeks ago.

Junior returned to the track just as Hendrick Motorsports teammate Mark Martin blew a tire, which sent him spinning through the trioval grass to bring out a caution flag. The unfortunate timing cost Earnhardt dearly; he slipped a lap down and never got back in the mix, though all the trouble at the end boosted him to 15th in the final standings.

His winless streak is now 61 races. Going back farther, Earnhardt has only one win in his last 138 races. □

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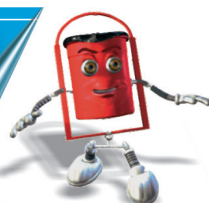


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## The French Steakhouse delivers dining under the stars



Eagle Beach – The French Steakhouse at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa just added another charming dining option, a tropical outdoor courtyard, featuring delicious cuisine under the stars.

The famed French Steakhouse prides itself on the elegant dining experience it offers patrons in the fully air-conditioned dining room. Yet recently the idea of adding a garden spot to the existing blueprint began to sprout in the creative mind of Executive Chef George Hoek, and he immediately recruited the landscapers to create the

intimate, lovely setting.

The French Steakhouse Ooh-La-La menu is now served indoor and alfresco, featuring creative appetizers, soups, salads, seafood dishes, poultry and the Pièce de Résistance South American & USDA Beef specialties.

Among popular appetizers the chef's Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple & mango salsa and the Teriyaki Glazed Seared Duck Breast, served with garden greens and balsamic dressing, are real crowd pleasers.

True to the restaurant's French roots, the Onion Soup

is a classic, while the Honey Glazed Salmon Salad winks at the exotic East with a sweet soy dressing.

The menu features a great variety of seafood dishes from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly-decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven!



The French Steakhouse is naturally famous for the South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, which now shares the stage with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon.

Light-eaters will find the Jerk Chicken Skewers and the Lemon Herb Broilers very satisfying.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining

room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson who is Aruba's best entertainer, and a walking & breathing music encyclopedia, just whistle the tune, and Eddy will produce a symphonic version of your favorite song.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person. [www.manchebo.com/steakhouse](http://www.manchebo.com/steakhouse)

## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar reinvents Beach Cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa is widely recognized as the home of Beach Cuisine.

Executive Chef George Hoek and his culinary team serve a Sun Splashed menu on the ocean front terrace, raising the restaurant to a must-visit, must-try status.



The contemporary menu, lists many favorite dishes from around the world, borrowing inspiration from US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean kitchens, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

From Sun-Sational Salads, to

Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, mid-day platters also include oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get! The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar is open from 11 a.m. to 11 p.m.



## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano introduces Menu Turistico

Eagle Beach -- Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located at the heart of the low-rise hotels at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers authentic Mediterranean flavors, at a reasonable price.

The restaurant has just introduced Menu Turistico a three-course dinner featuring appetizers, main courses and desserts for just \$19.95, per person, plus 15% service charge.

Patrons may choose between home made soup and Caesar salad, Fettuccini Alfredo, Lasagna Casarecia, Spaghetti alla Bolognese or any favorite pizza with Tiramisu, Cheese Cake or Ice Cream for the sweet finale.

Executive Chef George Hoek is the resort's much-appreciated culinary expert. He was the recent recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award, presented by the Aruba Hotel & Tourism Association in collaboration with the Digicel Group. Chef George accepted the Shoco Award, the national award of excellence, and Aruba's top professional decoration, in the tourism industry. □



# Casa Tua Méditerranée is officially open

PALM BEACH – Friends and fans of the Nataf family came to Casa Tua Mediterranée, on Saturday night to celebrate

## The temperature forecast is HOT

ORANJESTAD — Aruba may seem to have a constant weather pattern, but for many Arubans the heat of the past few weeks has been unbearable.

This current pattern is unusual as normally, months of October through January are characterized by showers, and somewhat cooler temperatures especially during the evening hours.

However, the end of 2009 and beginning of 2010 was marked by drought and extreme high temperatures, with periods of high winds intermingled with sudden drop of the famous Aruba breezes. According to the meteorological services in Aruba, this phenomenon is a direct effect of 'El Niño,' a stream coming out of Peru that affects the entire world climate. "It is difficult to say when this drought will be over," said meteorologist Marc Oduber, who explained the reason for the drought is not so clear yet. This time, El Niño seemed to have dominated the weather patterns and will do so until June. However, June is not a typical rainy month for Aruba, which means that is the weather is normalized; the rains may not come until the second half of the year. And in order to fill in the currently bone dry water reservoirs used for agriculture here, it will have to rain a lot in the second half of the year to make up for the long lasting drought.

But, since weather can be fickle, the local weatherman warns not to be surprised if there is a sudden shower in April, but that so far, models indicate that will not be the case for some time. □

the opening of the restaurant at the Palm Beach Plaza.

Owner Victor Nataf in collaboration with his food and décor savvy sons, Daveed and Gregory, invited the island's movers and shaker for a lively opening party of their latest restaurant, affiliated to Casa Tua Barcelona, in Oranjestad and Casa Tua Pizzeria, on Palm Beach. Casa Tua Mediterranée's professional kitchen crew, with food consultant Kiki Valvis, worked tirelessly to present rich and varied mezethes for tastings, a selection of Greek, Spanish and Arab appetizers against the musical backdrop of Angela Croes' flamenco music, also featuring six gorgeous Oriental dancers. The veiled dancers in fitted



tops decorated with fringes, beads and coins, wearing equally fitted hip belts with more fringe, beads and coins

over colorful harem pants, entertained party goes all night, and invited them to also shimmy their hips, vibrating

and swinging, as if they were all born in the Middle East!

*Continued on Page B7*

## A major gust of wind the culprit

# Mother Nature remodels MooMba Beach

HADICURARI – MooMba Beach Bar and Restaurant erected a party after the Palapa collapse last week. The party didn't even stop for a day as the management quickly put things back in order to provide guests and locals with one of the favorite places to hang out.

What happened is as follows: there was a wedding party going on at the bar and people were having loads of fun when a few giant gusts of wind were felt and a peculiar groaning noise was heard around 9.45 pm.

No one knew what was happening, but most people moved away from the big palapa as it started swaying. Then, with a loud noise, the entire roof collapsed.

"It was amazing to see how fast the ambulances, fire brigade and police force were out in force to assist in helping the people inside the palapa get out," says the spokesman. "Superintendent

Peter de Witte and head CEA Ronny Paskel were rapidly on hand to supervise the aid forces as well."

Of course the show must go on, especially at MooMba, one of the top bars on the island. □





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PALM BEACH – An appreciation party was hosted on Friday night at Amazonia Churrascaria, as General Manager Hubert Solagnier, Assistant Restaurant Manager Carolina Raven, Chef Victor Olivares and Director of Marketing Irma Bijen, entertained the island concierges in the garden, under the stars.

The concierges were invited on the occasion of the a la carte option introduction. And while the party was designed to give them a good time and to express gratitude for the business they generate, it also served as a networking opportunity as Hubert, Carolina and Irma, were on hand to answer all questions about the new feature, the a la carte dining.

From this week on small eaters, and patrons with distinct menu favorites, can opt to just order a skewer or two of their preferred item. All meat-lovers and hearty eaters

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# appreciation party



may opt for the traditional, continuous parade of gauchos, slicing more than 14 cuts of grilled beef, chicken, lamb, pork & sausage, accompanied by an extravagant forty-item, frequently changing seasonal

Pictured here, island concierges having fun at Amazonia Churrascaria, over apple and cosmopolitan martinis, to lounge music, complemented by delicious hors d'oeuvres. □



salad bar. And on Saturday & Sunday, the local special continues to grant terrific value-for-money to local patrons.



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# Quota International of Aruba Enjoys El Gaucho Hospitality



[seated] Jeanette van Noordzij-Solognier (Treasurer), Juliska Harms (Director of D&G), Muzaninn Wever (Secretary), Suzy Maduro (President), Ursy Nassy (Director of Bylaws). [standing] Luz Marina (Rina) Gonzalez (President Elect), Ludmilla Arends, Mirjam Auwerda-Jansen, Mariela Nava-Figaroa – All seated are current Board members of Quota International of Aruba 2009-2010 who will be stepping down as of the 1st of May for the newly elected Board 2010 - 2011. Both Suzy and Muzaninn will continue on the Board.



Vicky Booï, Enid de Lannoy, Amber Daryanani



Past International President Enid Croes-Marugg, Greta Posner-Figaroa, Past District 42 Governor Noris van Lis-Donata.



Cecile Provence, Suzy Maduro, Luz Marina (Rina) Gonzalez, Mena Lacle, Ludmilla Arends



Greta Posner-Figaroa, Gladys Kock, Past International President Enid Croes-Marugg, members of the Nominating Committee who did a great job in presenting the membership with candidates for each Board position.

business meeting, the highlight being the election of the new Board of Director which will take office on 1 May 2010.

This group of local professionals, working in the

private and public sector also includes many independent entrepreneurs, besides top industry executive. The women enthusiastically strive to be of service to the Aruban community, concentrating their efforts on helping the hearing and visually impaired, as well as children and women in distress.

“While we all operate in different business sectors,” says Suzy Maduro, “we work together as a team, enjoying our fellowship while we raise funds to help the less fortunate in our community, especially deaf, vision and speech impaired individuals.

Quota Club International just received a special recognition from FOCUS magazine for the service work it demonstrated in 2009,” she adds. Our pictures depict Quota International of Aruba members, after having enjoyed their terrific El Gaucho cuisine, in the private meeting room. □

Oranjestad – Quote International of Aruba convened at El Gaucho restaurant for its monthly



Maxima (Chima) Arendsz, Diana Werleman, Liesbeth van Gent



Ann Brinkman, Marjan Groot, Gladys Henriquez

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*Okeanos Spa weight-loss program comes to successful conclusion*

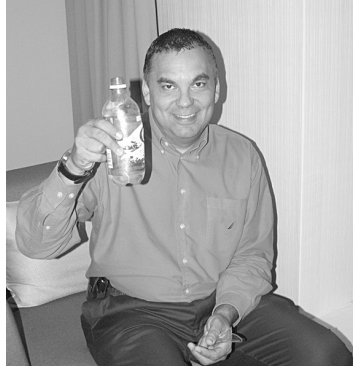
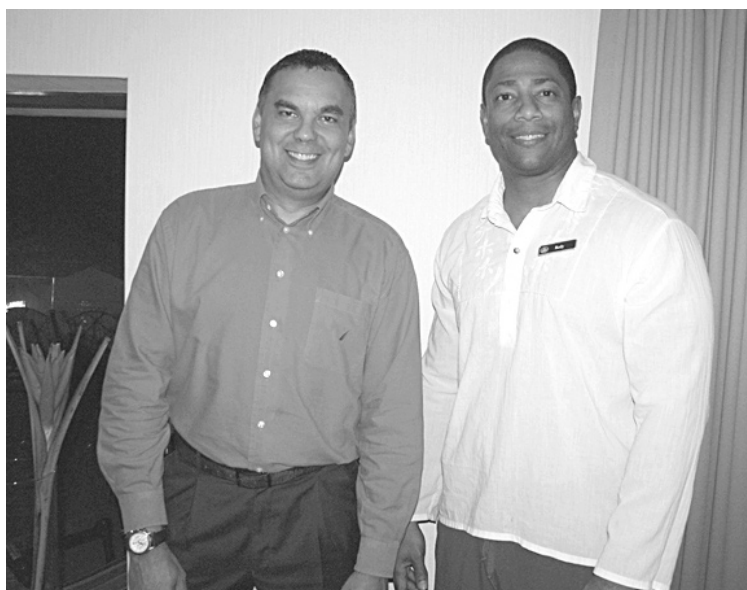
## Tito Lacle named the biggest loser



ORANJESTAD – Press personality Tito Lacle was named the biggest loser in Okeanos Spa weight-loss program which started at the beginning of January 2010. Tito reports his new year resolution led to the shedding of 24 pounds in just 6 weeks, and while the first week was no-picnic, he jokes, he actually enjoyed his sessions at the spa, and benefited greatly from the

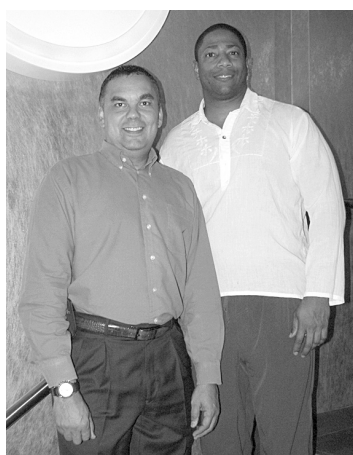


food and exercise program tailored to his particular needs



and likes by Rudy Schorea, the resident fitness guru. Okeanos Spa Weight Loss program, explain Spa Manager Karin Cofino included 3 days of fitness a week during which dieters were given a one hour training session guided by their personal instructor at the resort's state of the art fitness center. Different spa treatments, such as massage, manicure, pedicure, hair wash/blow, were also included, in the super-attractive package. On Friday evening program graduates were treated to some chilled bubbly, and a lean Chicken Caesar in celebration of their individual weigh-loss achievements.

While not every one signed up for the purpose of weigh loss, all participants expressed their complete satisfaction with the toning and the stretching the enjoyed, and with the sensible instruction they received. Toasting to the health and well-being of his students,



Rudy Schorea, invited them to continue on their journey with conscientious eating and regular exercise as the key to health and self confidence. Katharine Lacle, Local

Marketing Coordinator, Renaissance Aruba Resort & Casino reports that the program will be repeated in the near future, as the interest level continues to be high. □





# \*\*\*HUMAN HINTS\*\*\*

## Ego Exploits Imagination

Human imagination holds the power of infinite creation, but in three dimensions, it is easily manipulated and abused by the Human Ego. Just like Einstein's quip, "Great spirits will encounter fierce opposition from mediocre minds," our powerful imagination is exploited by our insecure ego.

When children play, they imagine themselves in another reality. Often, they get so into their alternate expression, they begin to lose the boundary between

here and there. Usually, a sufficiently closed-minded adult makes the distinction clear between real and imaginary.

Knowing the difference between real life and what is in your imagination is necessary in society. We cannot keep track of both the real world and the world in our mind.

When we get too deep into what is in our mind, we lose track of the reality that is agreed upon by the mass consciousness. The mass

consciousness then agrees that the person living in their imagination is insane.

But how 'sane' is an average person who agrees with the reality of mass consciousness? We all make things up in our mind, based on what the past has taught us. We all read into situations and comments throughout the day. Often, our 'take' on a situation has absolutely no basis in reality. It is all in our mind.

To clarify, when we speak of 'reality', we mean what the mass human consciousness agrees to as a common reference point for interaction.

The reference point is also defined and supported by three dimensional reality. Deviations from the norm are acceptable to a certain degree, but if someone gets hurt or is unable to function in their given three dimensional surroundings, a line must be drawn. What is in a person's mind is very real to that person, even though the three dimensional support is not there.

It is Human to be paranoid, because ego is still necessary

for our protection, and it is paranoid and insecure by nature. We all make things up in our minds, especially if we are bored. I've never watched Desperate Housewives, but I know that they create drama for themselves because their mind, body and energy are idle. An idle mind leads to insanity. If we are not continually challenged, the mind will create a self-destructive outlet for its unexpressed energy.

Unfortunately, we make things up even when we're not bored. We can become obsessed when we imagine a certain scenario to be real, even though it might not be. We gather what we see as evidence in the real world to support what we imagine to be true, while we dismiss evidence to the contrary of what we think.

Perhaps we don't all do this, but I sure have. Looking back on certain times in my life, I can see my insanity clearly. In hindsight, I can see how far from reality my paranoia was, and I can see how my uncontrollable compulsion to follow my insanity hurt me.

I pray that I've grown, that I have gained the wisdom to recognize my own insanity, and the courage to act on my new perspective.


Go to [www.HumanHints.com](http://www.HumanHints.com) to sign up to receive this column in your email each day.

### ~Quentin Danziger


Quentin has over 20 years experience balancing what we refer to as the Real World, with science and spirit. He has held positions of responsibility and authority, received a Bachelor of Science in Engineering Physics from Colorado School of Mines, and has also studied many avenues of alternative thought. HumanHints is the culmination of his knowledge, experience and practice. These free daily emails detail concrete, real-world techniques to consciously create any future you choose, while in the throes of daily life created by outdated modes of thought.

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	matinee: 1:00	3:30	late show: 11:00		
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE LOVELY BONES</b>				
	daily: 5:30	8:30			
	matinee:	late show: 11:30			
<b>R</b>	<b>EDGE OF DARKNESS</b>				
	daily: 4:30	7:00	9:30		
	matinee: 2:00	late show: 12:00			
<b>PG</b>	<b>ALVIN AND THE CHIPMUNKS "THE SQUEAKQUEL"</b>				
	daily: 12:55	3:15	late show:		
<b>PG</b>	<b>VALENTINE'S DAY</b>				
	daily: 6:30	9:00			
	matinee: 12:45	3:45	late show: 11:45		
<b>R</b>	<b>THE WOLFMAN</b>				
	daily: 6:00	8:45			
	matinee: 12:15	3:00	late show: 11:30		
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>THE FOURTH KIND</b>				
	daily: 4:15	6:45	9:15		
	matinee: 1:30	late show: 11:45			
	<b>SHUTTER ISLAND</b>				
<b>R</b>	daily: 5:30	8:30			
	matinee: 2:30	late show: 11:30			
<b>PG-13</b>	<b>DEAR JOHN</b>				
	daily: 4:00	6:30	9:00		
	matinee: 1:30	late show: 11:30			
<b>PG</b>	<b>PERCY JACKSON &amp; THE OLYMPIANS</b>				
	daily: 5:30	8:15			
	matinee: 12:00	2:45	late show: 11:00		
<b>PG</b>	<b>EXTRAORDINARY MEASURES</b>				
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<b>R</b>	<b>FROM PARIS WITH LOVE</b>				
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# Casa Tua Méditerranée is officially open



*Continued from Page B1*

Casa Tua Méditerranée offers a contemporary Mediterranean style. The décor, by Daveed Nataf, features dark wood,

straight-lined furniture, on the outdoor wraparound terrace and in the air-conditioned dining room. The polished concrete used on the floor also



serves as a bar top, in shades of pearl grey. The large bar top is suspended, over a band of indirect lighting, to create a luminous, glowing effect that works well with the metallic sheen of the bar's back wall. The ceiling features a number of hanging layers, giving the room an interesting, architectural look. The restaurant has no walls as it is completely encased in glass allowing excellent views into the Palm Beach Plaza.

Rave reviews about the food, and caring personalized service, make this new place a perfect spot for people who love to live, and love to eat and party! □





The best Brazilian Steakhouse in Aruba! Serving the Island's most exquisite deserts...

# The best salad bar can be found in Texas

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**PALM BEACH** – The health and calorie conscious among us need fear steakhouses no more. Whether it's a low-carb, low-fat, or even vegetarian diet you follow, Texas de Brazil Churrascaria fits into just about every dieter's menu plan.

Low carb eaters will have all their expectations surpassed with a tempting carnivorous selection of umpteen cuts of sizzling beef, pork, lamb, sausage, and poultry. The meats are prepared in the healthiest style of cooking—slow roasting—where much of the fat drips off in the roasting process, so those looking for a lower fat option to sautéing, pan frying, or deep frying will also be able to indulge.

The Brazilian-style steakhouse also offers a garden full of healthy eats on a lavish 40-item seasonal salad bar, giving dieters plenty to choose from to accompany the

slow-roasted meats. A selection of fresh lettuces and vegetables may be standard for most salad bars, but Texas de Brazil's version goes a gourmet twist further, treating the palate to additional items like marinated portabella mushrooms, sweet roasted bell peppers, hearts of palm, sundried tomatoes, imported cheeses—including fresh buffalo mozzarella—sushi, home-made soups, and much more.

The salad bar is included in the continuous service meal with unlimited choices from the grilled meats, but for vegetarians or the non-meat eaters, a special price is offered for just the salad bar. Of course, for those looking to splurge while on vacation, Texas de Brazil will gladly serve their garlic mashed potatoes, traditional fried plantains, and their world-famous parmesan cheese bread as part of the meal.

**Restaurant**  
open daily

Monday - Sat 6 pm - 11  
Sunday 5 pm - 11 pm

For more information or to  
make reservations, please  
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Adam Steinfeld live tonight!

## Don't miss Magic & Comedy tonight at the Westin



**STEINFELD: 'MAGIC LIVE!'** Theater-of-illusions show... now at the WESTIN - Aruba, see it live! 9pm nightly NightMagic-Comedy- Master of illusions. PREPARE to Witness TOP-Class Illusions, Magic & Comedy on Stage. Adam Steinfeld's Magic Live!® show, at the WESTIN - Aruba... 'Sensational!', 'Amazingly Funny!'...the Hottest ticket in Town! A Must See" 'BEST MAGIC SHOW, I've seen in ages...and I hate Magic! - Carol Butz, Belair, Maryland.

'MagicLive!...is Hip-Comedy Entertainment, Adam is the ultimate Modern Magician' - Jacque Polak, CBS-TV. Steinfeld sophisticated card-sharp street magic, mixed with grand theater illusions is a visual feast...this will be the highlight of your vacation. -Al Blanchard, mystery novelist, Boston, MA.

Steinfeld's, comedy magician, likable on-stage personality, comic interactive-wit, and amazing magic, mixed with his dream-like theatre-of-

illusions, is a sensory overload of the imagination, along with his lovely dancers...a treat for the entire family.

### SEE IT LIVE! On-Stage!

"It's obvious Adam's real passion is performing in front of a live audience, as his charisma and charm create an unforgettable show!" Steinfeld is a 'Master of Magic', he invents many of his own Las Vegas illusions that are designed in England, fabricated in Vegas, and travels with him on tour, in a explosion of amazing fun.

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### IF YOU GO

What: Magic Live! theater-of-illusions show  
Where: Westin - Aruba, palm beach (high-rise area)  
Who: starring, comedy illusionist, Adam Steinfeld  
Time: 9:00 pm, theater opens at 8:30pm  
Tickets: at the door  
Price: \$19.95 under 15, \$29.5 adults  
Group Sales: 561-1090  
website: [www.MagicLive.com](http://www.MagicLive.com)  
Blog: [www.MagicOnTheBeach.com](http://www.MagicOnTheBeach.com)



Today is International Women's Day

## International Women's Day celebrates century in the year 2010



Although the date has only been recognized by the United Nations in 1975, the International Women's Day was established in 1910 during the World Conference on Women held in Denmark.

Therefore, a hundred years ago on March 8 the day is dedicated to women.

The choice of March 8 refers to that day in 1857, when textile workers in New York in the

United States went on strike, occupying the factory, and their lobbying for easing the daily working hours, from 16h to 10h.

These workers – who received less than a third of the wages of men – were closed in the factory where they started a fire. About 130 women were burnt alive.

Professionals North American in 1903 created the Women's Trade Union League, an association



which had as objective to help all workers to demand better working conditions. Five years later, over 14 thousand women marched in the streets of New York protesting for the same reason the workers in 1857, and claimed the right to vote.

They walked under the slogan of Bread and Roses, where the bread symbolized the economic stability and roses a better quality of life. □

# BREAD and ROSES

*Fine & Affordable Dining at Pam Pam Restaurant*

## Meet Chef Ludwich Samson and his exquisite menu now unveiled!



Nestled in the quiet neighborhood of Boegoeroei, Perle d'Or apartment complex houses Dutch students and vacationers, as well as a cozy garden eatery, Pam Pam Restaurant & Bar. Aiming to attract a more diverse clientele, Pam Pam has recently adopted a more upscale dining concept. In order to pilot this new concept, rising local chef Ludwich Samson was brought on board, and in just two months on the job, he has

more than proven his worth.

Laid-back, refreshingly young, and ambitious, Ludwich began his career as a chef by enrolling in Aruba's hospitality and culinary arts school—the best decision he has ever made, he wholeheartedly claims. With ten years in the kitchen and three years as a chef, Ludwich has developed an impressive arsenal of cooking skills. He attributes the majority of his growth as a chef to his years

of working under his mentor, Vittorio Muscarllo, owner of Hostaria Da'Vittorio and one of the most highly respected chefs on Aruba.

In his two months with Pam Pam, Ludwich has entirely remodeled the kitchen to make it more efficient. He has also created a whole new menu featuring particularly unique dishes in order to distinguish Pam Pam from the endless number of restaurants along Aruba's hotel strip. While the menu still offers Dutch snacks and typical Dutch platters like sate to appease the many Dutch interns residing at Perle d'Or, the rest of the menu offers upscale fusion cuisine. Lemon grass and chillies give several seafood dishes a Thai flair; homemade ravioli and beef carpaccio salute Italy; crustacean ceviche adds a Peruvian element; and Indonesian spices add zest to a handful of casual main dishes.

Ludwich also craftily adds little unexpected twists to some classic dishes, elevating the uniqueness of his menu. One of his personal favorites is his porcini-crusted filet mignon served with a thyme red-wine reduction. He also delights in the fact that most diners have a hard time figuring out the sweet and spicy deliciousness of his signature crustacean platter. Other interesting interpretations include lump-crab lollipops, chicken cordon blue unorthodoxly stuffed with ricotta and bacon, and for dessert, tiramisu that promises an untraditional layer of decadent Bailey's chocolate mousse.

Needless to say, Ludwich is creative in the kitchen and works extremely hard, currently putting in 12 to 16 hours a day, seven days a week; but he insists that this is not what makes a good chef good. "I simply love what



I do for a living," confides Ludwich, and this is what guarantees success in the kitchen and contented diners. Of course, being a chef can be downright stressful, but Ludwich thrives on the rush of adrenaline on busy nights. And when he peers out of the kitchen and sees a restaurant full of people enjoying their meals, he experiences immense satisfaction. For reservations call: 5877710 or 7483848, or visit us at [www.pampamaruba.com](http://www.pampamaruba.com). □



# The Greatest Day in History – Women in Business



## The Greatest Day in History...

Today is the greatest day in the history of the world! That statement sounds optimistic because it sounds promising and it feels good to say it. That statement is often said in the context of today being the first day of the rest of your life and one is appreciative. Such appreciation should never go unattended, as it is real. However that statement is not a statement at all nor is it optimistic. "Today is the greatest day in the history of the world" is not a proclamation of promise. It's a declaration of truth. The history of the world has been one of women's suppression and struggle and though that still continues, today is better than any other day before. Today, women have power unlike never before and the power grows. Power is not something someone gives you; power is something one must take. Women have taken this power and by way of reasonable measures. Aristotle believed that at his best, man is the most noblest of all animals but separated from law and justice, he is the worst. Women can never be separated from the laws of nature because it's their birthright and their gift. Women

can never be separated from justice because justice begins with the woman. Women have been the victims of misguided laws and malicious injustice. Today, women have the power to impact the laws and levy justice where justice does not exist. In a civilized society, just laws must not only be prevalent, they must prevail. When women prevail in a society, all those in that society will profit and the society will prevail.

Oftentimes when the subject of women in business is discussed, comparisons with men are made as if men are the barometer for business. This is a false perception and false too is the language. Business is not an entity separated from life; it is an entity encompassed by life. The definitions of a business consists of a line of work, to work, a profession, a job, a trade, a position, a vocation, a field, a calling and a career. Before today, societies around the globe have claimed that women didn't work and therefore couldn't understand the parameters of "formal" business. This misconception rivals some the largest platitudes in history: the near-sighted earth is flat, the purposeful stork delivers babies and the perforated theory of evolution. The

business world has presented itself to women as if it spoke a foreign language on an uncharted map. But the truth is that the language is fabricated and the world of business operates in a land not unknown to women. By definition, everything women do and have always done is in fact a business. Women have labored the child, harvested the crop, fed the hungry, nursed the needy and educated the willing. All of those are jobs, careers, trades, vocations and callings. Women aren't new to business; they're only new to the financial rewards.

Today, more than ever, women are in the workplace and now own the workplace. Women have always been established in business but now they are in business for profit by way of monetary means. Today over 10 million businesses are owned or controlled by women and those businesses account for over two (2) trillion dollars in sales. That's an astounding number and a resounding accomplishment when all considerations are factored. This doesn't come as a result of women learning anything new. This is a manifestation of who women already are: industrious, innovative, instinctive and intelligent. The traits of women are not to be compared with that of men, just shared in composition of a more productive and progressive society. Every household around the world that houses women, women manage and most commonly manage well. The interactive and intuitive management style of women is a prerequisite to a thriving business and a productive workplace environment. Women-owned businesses employ almost 20 million people and steadily rising. No matter the financial compensations, people want to work in a place where they are wanted and needed. People want to feel like they're doing something that matters and their input is valuable. This is the difference between the cold walls of a house structure and the warmth of a fruitful home. Business isn't cold but

people in business can be and therefore the stigma attaches. Inanimate objects and entities have no control over the animate. That's an abdication of responsibility and excuse for not executing the social graces where civility and industry must meet. And in the world of accountability, there can be no room for excuses. There was a time not long ago when any man in a three-piece suit could qualify for a business loan. Those times are no more, as much money was lost and many laws were circumvented. The measures applied in today's market are far more reasonable and more accessible to female entrepreneurs. Commercial lenders and Venture Capitalists want to see that the company has done its research in that respective field. It's important for them to know that you have experience in this area of expertise. Another major factor will be how you intend to market the product and what the infrastructure of the company is. As you design your company, research successful companies already in that industry, introduce yourselves to other women in business and network to assist each other. Those around you that make claims of what you can't do must be excluded from your conversations, so that you may focus on the task at hand. Whether you are single, a single mother or married, taking advantage of free enterprise is the way to independence and interdependence. The success in business that any male has experienced is not because males possess some superior trait over women; it's because men have been the only players. Women can compete in any and every business. It's just a matter of choice and now that choice is yours.

There are many mechanics that will need to be considered but every business is unique and few guidelines are universal. Business plans that include collateral will always have a greater chance for success. If you can include real estate in your proposal, then do so. If your credit or assets are not substantial, then

you may design a plan that provides for security such as inventory and a schedule that may include factoring. There are options available such as equipment leasing and accounts receivables that will keep your company flexible with capital reserves. Each business plan must be specifically designed to suit your needs and the company's industry and location. No one can make these determinations but you and no one can adequately assist you without full disclosure. Explore your options and enlist the services of someone who understands you and your needs.

In business, the blueprint for success has zero to do with gender and everything to do with characteristics. The number one reason most people don't start a business is not because of a lack of money but a conceptual fear. For one to operate a successful business, they must first define what success is in their own terms. The sole reason why the numbers of women-owned businesses aren't more reflective of the population is because they haven't been encouraged to do and supported when doing so. It's been a blight on the world community and a recessive gene to societal growth. Today we see women straightening that crooked path and every society will become a more powerful force because of it. Yesterday, we gorged the bitterness of bigotry. Today, we taste the fruits of unity and diversity. Today, we plant the untainted seeds of effortless innovation and boundless meritocracy. Today, little girls and little boys will witness the ubiquitous talents of women in power and exalt their leadership. Young women will know they have they have a reasonable option before them and no law will disallow their choices. It's paramount that not only young women see their defined roles as unrestrained but that young men do and work in concert as we brave a new world. It's true: Today is the greatest day in the history of the world and tomorrow will be even better. □



# About International Women's Day

International Women's Day has been observed since in the early 1900's, a time of great expansion and turbulence in the industrialized world that saw booming population growth and the rise of radical ideologies.

## 1908

Great unrest and critical debate was occurring amongst women. Women's oppression and inequality was spurring women to become more vocal and active in campaigning for change. Then in 1908, 15,000 women marched through New York City demanding shorter hours, better pay and voting rights.

## 1909

In accordance with a declaration by the Socialist Party of America, the first National Woman's Day (NWD) was observed across the United States on 28 February. Women continued to celebrate NWD on the last Sunday of February until 1913.

## 1910

In 1910 a second International Conference of Working Women was held in Copenhagen. A woman named a Clara Zetkin (Leader of the 'Women's Office' for the Social Democratic Party in Germany) tabled the idea of an International Women's Day. She proposed that every year in every country there should be a celebration on the same day - a Women's Day - to press for their demands. The conference of over 100 women from 17 countries, representing unions, socialist parties, working women's clubs, and including the first three women elected to the Finnish parliament, greeted Zetkin's suggestion with unanimous approval and thus International Women's Day was the result.

## 1911

Following the decision agreed at Copenhagen in 1911, International Women's Day (IWD) was honoured the first time in Austria, Denmark, Germany and Switzerland on 19 March. More than one million women and men attended IWD rallies campaigning for women's rights to work, vote, be trained, to hold public office and end discrimination. However less than a week later on 25 March, the tragic 'Triangle Fire' in New York City took the lives of more than 140 working women, most of them Italian and Jewish immigrants. This disastrous event drew significant attention to working conditions and labour legislation in the United States that became a focus of subsequent International Women's

Day events. 1911 also saw women's 'Bread and Roses' campaign.

## 1913-1914

On the eve of World War I campaigning for peace, Russian women observed their first International Women's Day on the last Sunday in February 1913. In 1913 following discussions, International Women's Day was transferred to 8 March and this day has remained the global date for International Women's Day ever since. In 1914 further women across Europe held rallies to campaign against the war and to express women's solidarity.

## 1917

On the last Sunday of February, Russian women began a strike for "bread and peace" in response to the death over 2 million Russian soldiers in war. Opposed by political leaders the women continued to strike until four days later the Czar was forced to abdicate and the provisional Government granted women the right to vote. The date the women's strike commenced was Sunday 23 February on the Julian calendar then in use in Russia. This day on the Gregorian calendar in use elsewhere was 8 March.

## 1918 - 1999

Since its birth in the socialist movement, International Women's Day has grown to become a global day of recognition and celebration across developed and developing countries alike. For decades, IWD has grown from strength to strength annually. For many years the United Nations has held an annual IWD conference to coordinate international efforts for women's rights and participation in social, political and economic processes. 1975 was designated as 'International Women's Year' by the United Nations. Women's organisations and governments around the world have also observed IWD annually on 8 March by holding large-scale events that honour women's advancement and while diligently reminding of the continued vigilance and action required to ensure that women's equality is gained and maintained in all aspects of life.

## 2000 and beyond

IWD is now an official holiday in China, Armenia, Russia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Macedonia, Moldova, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Ukraine, Uzbekistan and Vietnam. The tradition sees men honouring

their mothers, wives, girlfriends, colleagues, etc with flowers and small gifts. In some countries IWD has the equivalent status of Mother's Day where children give small presents to their mothers and grandmothers.

The new millennium has witnessed a significant change and attitudinal shift in both women's and society's thoughts about women's equality and emancipation. Many from a younger generation feel that 'all the battles have been won for women' while many feminists from the 1970's know only too well the longevity and ingrained complexity of patriarchy. With more women in the boardroom, greater equality in legislative rights, and an increased critical mass of women's visibility as impressive role models in every aspect of life, one could think that women have gained true equality. The unfortunate fact is that women are still not paid equally to that of their male counterparts, women still are not present in equal numbers in business or politics, and globally women's education, health and the violence against them is worse than that of men.

However, great improvements have been made. We do have female astronauts and prime ministers, school girls are welcomed into university, women can work and have a family, women have real choices. And so the tone and nature of IWD has, for the past few years, moved from being a reminder about the negatives to a celebration of the positives.

Annually on 8 March, thousands of events are held throughout the world to inspire women and celebrate achievements. A global web of rich and diverse local activity connects women from all around the world ranging from political rallies, business conferences, government activities and networking events through to local women's craft markets, theatre performances, fashion parades and more.

Many global corporations have also started to more actively support IWD by running their own internal events and through supporting external ones. For example, on 8 March search engine and media giant Google some years even changes its logo on its global search pages. Year on year IWD is certainly increasing in status. The United States even designates the whole month of March as 'Women's History Month'.

So make a difference, think globally and act locally !! Make everyday International Women's Day. Do your bit to ensure that the future for girls is bright, equal, safe and rewarding. □







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2BR	WK 11	ROOM 46/49	P.V.	\$ 17.000
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# Brasil prepara medidas para impulsar exportaciones

BRASILIA (AFP) - Brasil prepara un paquete de incentivos para ampliar las exportaciones, afectadas por la crisis internacional el año pasado, informó este domingo el ministro de Hacienda, Guido Mantega, en entrevista al diario Folha de Sao Paulo.

Las medidas prevén extender los beneficios fiscales a más empresas exportadoras. “Hoy para ser empresa preponderantemente exportadora (que puede acogerse a todos los beneficios), ésta tiene que exportar 60% (de lo que produce). Bajamos a 40% la obligatoriedad de exportar y más empresas tendrán beneficios”, dijo Mantega.

El gobierno pretende extender las líneas de crédito para la exportación y también los incentivos fiscales, para beneficiar a pequeños y medios exportadores.

Las exportaciones brasileñas sumaron 152.995 millones de dólares en 2009, con una contracción de 21,8%, tras diez años de boom exportador. El superávit comercial fue de 25.348 millones de dólares (+1,6%), fruto de una contracción también en las importaciones, que sumaron 127.647 millones (-25%). □



## La normalidad vuelve poco a poco en la costa chilena arrasada por un tsunami

CONSTITUCION (AFP) - Semáforos que vuelven a mostrar sus luces, un hombre que habla desde una cabina telefónica, comerciantes que despliegan sus puestos de frutas y legumbres son varios de los signos de un lento regreso a la normalidad en la costa chilena, ocho días después de un sismo y un tsunami.

En Constitución, 300 km al sur de Santiago, la multitud se afana frente a una carpa del organismo encargado de pagar las prestaciones sociales, cuyos locales se derrumbaron.

“La gente de la tercera edad y las personas con pocos recursos hacen cola para cobrar su pensión”, explica Olga Villarreal, 37 años, una mujer que sostiene a sus tres hijos vigilando los autos que estacionan en la calle.

“Supuestamente tenían que abrir a las 10, pero son las 11 y media y no hay nadie. ¡Es una vergüenza!”, se indigna.

Ese retraso simboliza bien la lentitud del arranque de la actividad en esta ciudad de 60.000 habitantes, en que las morgue ha censado 86 cadáveres y donde un tercio

de la población perdió todo en la catástrofe.

Al lado de esa multitud, un militar telefona desde una cabina y los autos tienen que detenerse frente al rojo del semáforo pero la mayoría de la parte baja de la ciudad no tiene electricidad y las comunicaciones están complicadas. El agua no corre por los grifos, pero hay los camiones-cisterna que recorren la ciudad. Muchos se contentan con las raciones alimentarias que envió el

gobierno aún si ya las tiendas reabren. En algunas calles las bolsas para la compra reemplazan las cajas de la ayuda.

Diez kilómetros más lejos familias habitan todavía bajo las carpas al lado de la carretera.

Del otro lado de Constitución, al contrario, la vida reclama sus derecho en el campo. Centenares de vacas pastan en total calma y los campos de trigo están listos para la siega y los viñedos para la vendimia.

En Putu, 15 km al norte de Constitución, muchas casas están por tierra pero los pequeños comercios ya reabrieron. Más lejos, en Iloca, el pequeño supermercado ‘Villa Mar’ recibe de nuevo a sus clientes.

En frente, a algunos metros no queda casi nada de esta pequeña estación balnearia de unos 1.000 habitantes: sólo una playa cubierta de lavamanos, refrigeradores, ropa interior, láminas metálicas y ramas de árboles. □

## Zelaya presidirá un consejo político de Petrocaribe

CARACAS (AFP) - El ex presidente de Honduras, Manuel Zelaya, será el “coordinador jefe” del nuevo “consejo político por la defensa de la independencia y la democracia” de Petrocaribe, informó el sábado el canciller venezolano Nicolás Maduro, durante un congreso del PSUV (partido en el poder).

“Se ha decidido la conformación de un consejo político por la defensa de la independencia y la democracia de nuestro continente, en Petrocaribe, para el que se va a designar coordinador jefe a Zelaya”, explicó Maduro, explicando que esta fue una de las conclusiones del encuentro del ex mandatario con el presidente venezolano Hugo Chávez. A través de Petrocaribe, surgida en 2005, Venezuela suministra petróleo y derivados con facilidades financieras a países de la región.


Horas más tarde, Chávez celebró la visita del ex mandatario hondureño, que actualmente

reside como huésped en República Dominicana.

“Esta es su casa, presidente Zelaya. Yo le decía anoche (viernes) que ahí estábamos los dos presidentes derrocados de este siglo. Sólo que él se quedó sin soldados, porque pueblo tiene”, dijo Chávez, uno de los más férreos defensores del ex mandatario hondureño desde que fue derrocado en junio de 2009 por un golpe de Estado.

El ex presidente hondureño, que asistió como invitado especial al congreso del Partido Socialista Unido de Venezuela (PSUV) este sábado, confesó que se inspira en “la voluntad de independencia que pregona la revolución bolivariana” y agradeció el apoyo de Chávez.

Zelaya se encuentra en Caracas desde el jueves y en la reunión de este sábado fue considerado como el “presidente constitucional de Honduras” por los miembros del PSUV. □




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# Presidente dominicano en visita mediadora a Colombia

BOGOTA (AP) - El presidente de República Dominicana, Leonel Fernández, quien lidera el grupo de países amigos que intentan mediar entre Colombia y Venezuela, se mostró optimista en torno a su gestión tras reunirse aquí el sábado con el canciller colombiano Jaime Bermúdez. “Podemos decir que ha sido un buen primer encuentro. Eso nos va a facilitar entonces la interlocución con la contraparte venezolana y tratar de restablecer relaciones plenas entre los dos países”, dijo el jefe del estado dominicano a reporteros en el Palacio de San Carlos, sede de la cancillería colombiana. Fernández confirmó que el lunes se reunirá en su país con el canciller venezolano

Nicolás Maduro, en un intento de acordar un encuentro entre los mandatarios de Colombia, Alvaro Uribe y de Venezuela, Hugo Chávez.

Al término de una reunión con el gobernador de Norte de Santander, William Villamizar y dirigentes gremiales de Cúcuta, ciudad fronteriza con Venezuela y ubicada a 400 kilómetros al noreste de Bogotá, Fernández dijo a los periodistas que ya estaba enterado del “problema de deudas pendientes de cobrar por parte de empresas” de la región y del resto del país.

“Está pendiente la reanudación del flujo comercial y temas de seguridad que también deben ser abordados y el de transporte que tiene una singular importancia”, en el



El presidente dominicano Leonel Fernández (2do. de derecha a izquierda), conversa con funcionarios colombianos en Cúcuta, el sábado 6 de marzo del 2010 (AP Foto/Efraín Patiño).

comercio binacional, acotó el mandatario.

Fernández, acompañado por Bermúdez, Villamizar y la

alcaldesa de Cúcuta, María Eugenia Riascos hizo un recorrido por la ciudad y parte de la frontera antes de viajar a

Bogotá y retornar a su país.

La mediación del gobernante dominicano es apoyada por Brasil y México.

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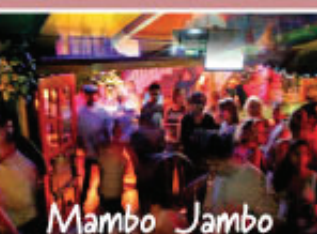
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